

NetworkNEWS

Illinois Department on Aging

Fall 2002



John Garcia, Theodore Radcliffe, Identa Austin and Ed True are congratulated by Ryan Kruger (left back), Walgreens District Manager, and Director Margo E. Schreiber for their admission to the Senior Illinoisans Hall of Fame.

Four Older Illinoisans Enter Hall of Fame

Four individuals were inducted by the Illinois Department on Aging into the Senior Illinoisans Hall of Fame on August 12, 2002, at the Illinois State Fair Senior Center Auditorium.

"These individuals are so deserving of this prominent award," said Illinois Department on Aging Director Margo E. Schreiber. "They have been so generous in sharing their time, talent and energy to make their communities and the state a better place."

Inductees were selected for achievement in the areas of community service, education and performing arts. They join 51 previous inductees. They are:

Theodore "Double Duty" Radcliffe, 100, of **Chicago** — The honoree in the Performance Category was a star in the Negro League, playing many championship teams as a pitcher and catcher for 38 years and a manager for 28 years. Radcliffe's popular manner has propelled the Negro League into international popularity after being in obscurity. At the beginning of his career, Radcliffe endured bigotry, long road trips and low wages. He played with baseball greats

Hall of Fame continued on page 3 ➤



From left, Donna Dixon of the Chicago Housing Authority; Chicago Department on Aging Commissioner Anna Willis; Illinois Department on Aging Director Margo E. Schreiber; LaShun James, Director of Resident Services for the CDA; Fred Kimble, Manager of Long Term Care Division of IDoA; and Chicago Department on Aging Deputy Commissioner Ella Muhammad are pictured the day they toured senior housing residences in Chicago which are pilot sites for direct case management services.

Chicago Pilot Program Brings Services to Senior Housing Residents

Chicago Department on Aging Commissioner Anna L. Willis and Illinois Department on Aging Director Margo E. Schreiber in August marked the success of an on-site pilot program that provides direct case management services to 501 senior residents in three Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) senior housing apartments.

Chicago Department on Aging staff who operate the Resident Service Coordination Program in CHA housing were trained by the Illinois Department on Aging to assess the service needs of seniors living in the buildings.

"This program is such a success because service is literally brought to the door of the residents," said Director Schreiber. "It's built upon the same concept as community policing. With a case manager working on site and interacting with residents, their needs will be better identified and addressed." ❧

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It's hard to believe autumn is here once again. I think since I've served as Director of the Illinois Department on Aging, four years have gone by as fast as one. I have loved every minute of it, and I am very proud of all the improvements for seniors that you and I have accomplished together.

Even in the worst of times — the recent budget woes — the Illinois Department on Aging fared relatively well. The Department's budget was up 16 percent and we were not forced to implement service cuts. I credit much of this to the Aging Network — voices like yours which never let our Governor and General Assembly members forget how essential our services really are.

We can also be proud of the visibility level of the Illinois Department on Aging. As Director, I made "In Illinois, Aging is Everybody's Business" our slogan. You have helped me convey that message, that aging truly affects all of us — in our homes and in our workplace. Hopefully, more people now understand the implications of aging, as well as understand where they can turn for services in their own communities.

We can also be proud that our advocacy and actions have resulted in accomplishments ranging from the best prescription assistance program in our nation to reaching out to family caregivers with vital information and assistance. We have boosted home delivered



meals, fought harder against abuse and financial exploitation, promoted improvements in nursing homes, recruited senior volunteers, and more...much much more...enough to fill this entire issue.

Of course, our work never ends. If I have the opportunity to stay on as Director of the Illinois Department on Aging, there are many other goals I would encourage...goals we have already begun and need to follow through on - increasing the salaries of homemakers and adult day service rates, to name just two.

So, as we approach yet another season, I thank you sincerely for all your support and for being such a dedicated partner to the Illinois Department on Aging. I hope we can continue working together and building upon and creating some new accomplishments to enrich the lives of Illinois seniors even more.

Very truly yours,

Margo E. Schreiber
Margo E. Schreiber, Director

Commissioner Willis Receives Honors

Anna Willis, Commissioner of the Chicago Department on Aging, was honored August 13, 2002, in Chicago as part of the annual Kathy Osterman Awards, a 34-year-old employee recognition program.

The awards honor outstanding metropolitan area government employees for diligence, superior performance and achievements in service to the public. Commissioner Willis was honored in the "Outstanding Executive Employee" category.



Anna Willis, Commissioner of the Chicago Department on Aging, has been named "Outstanding Executive Employee" in the city of Chicago.

"These honorees represent the best and brightest in the civil service sector," said Mayor Richard Daley. "Their commitment to this city goes beyond their job and represents a passion for the citizens of Chicago. These exemplary individuals help define why Chicago is called the 'city that works.'"

The city of Chicago, Department of Personnel, coordinates the Kathy Osterman Award Program in conjunction with the Chicago Transit Authority, Chicago Park District, City Colleges of Chicago, Chicago Housing Authority and the Chicago Public Schools. Each year over forty outstanding public service employees are honored. ✧

over the decades and holds many records. Writer Damon Runyan watched him catch in the first game and pitch the second, and said it was worth the admission of two, hence the nickname, "Double Duty."

Dr. Carmen Joseph Carsello, 85, of **Chicago** — The honoree in the Education Category is an Educational Psychologist who taught at the University of Illinois from 1963 to 1985. He taught physical education in inner-city schools and swimming for the American Red Cross. He has served on the Near West Side Community Committee delinquency prevention program. Carsello earned the World War II Victory Medal and the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal. He has also received the Sheriff's Senior Medal of Honor Award and been named in the Marquis Who's Who in the World. Now retired from teaching, Carsello counsels and mentors youth and is a strong advocate for senior citizens.

Ed True, 70, of **O'Fallon** — True is an honoree in the Community Service Category. He holds a bachelor's degree from Bradley University and two master's degrees from the University of Southern California. Working as an adjunct instructor for Southwest Illinois College and St. Louis Community College, he spends extra hours helping struggling students. He has volunteered for the YMCA, United Way, Junior Achievement, Boy Scouts and the Leukemia Society and Cancer Society. He has served on local and national boards for the Leukemia Society, Boy Scouts of America and Senior Olympics. He was a member of the O'Fallon District 90

Grandparent Symposium on Policies and Programs

The Illinois Department on Aging, in partnership with the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women in Illinois, the Illinois Task Force on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois, held a Grandparent Symposium on Policies and Programs on September 10, 2002. The Symposium addressed the issues and needs surrounding grandparents raising grandchildren, and identified gaps in service in an effort to improve public policy.



Grandmothers Neldra Baker (front left) and Sue Wojths (front right) pose with First Lady Lura Lynn Ryan (center), Judy McCaskey (top left) and Mary Cameron Frey (top right), of the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women in Illinois.

Elementary Board for 17 years. True currently serves as alderman on the O'Fallon City Council.

Identa Austin, 88, of **Yorkville** is also a winner in the Community Service category. Austin has been an advocate for the needs of children, teachers, sick and elderly for over a quarter century. Austin lead the fight to have a referendum placed on the ballot that provides a percentage of county taxes directed to senior services; the funding has been used to build a large senior center in Yorkville. She has participated in the Silver Haired Congress in Washington, D.C. and served twice as a Senior Citizen Intern in Washington, D.C. She is a recipient of the Governor's Award for Unique Achievement.

The following individuals received **Honorable Mention** for their contributions to their communities:

Yoji Ozaki, 80 of **Chicago** is a U.S.-born citizen of Japanese descent who has helped Illinois' immigrants and refugees for over 40 years. He was interned in U.S. concentration camps during World War II. He was director of the Japanese American Service Committee, and he worked for the Illinois Department of Community Mental Health. He founded the Chicago Japanese Historical Society, and he is a member of the Chicago Senior Hall of Fame.

John Garcia, 71, of **Chicago** is an activist within the Hispanic community in south Chicago. He has been very active in Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish for over 40 years, raising funds and organizing banquets and events that benefit youth. Garcia finds inspiration in his heritage and faith and accompanied Cardinal Francis George on a pilgrimage to Mexico. ✠

Good Health

Nutrition Information Available

Copies of materials presented at the Administration on Aging's State Nutritionist and Administrators Conference held in June are now accessible at the website of the National Policy and Resource Center on Nutrition and Aging at www.fiu.edu/~nutreldr/Center_Initiatives/center_initiatives.htm#Anniversary. PowerPoint presentations are included.

During the Conference, the Center introduced the **Steps to Healthy Aging: Eating Better, Moving More** pilot project. More information about this project is available at www.fiu.edu/~nutreldr/STEPS_Programs/STEPS_home.htm.

Nutrition Connections: People, Programs and Science, a Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) sponsored National Nutrition Education Conference for nutritionists, other professionals and those working in nutrition education at federal, state and local levels will be held February 24-26, 2003, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C.

For more information, visit www.fns.usda.gov/nutritionconference, contact Infinity Conference Group by e-mail at icg@infinityconferences.com or call 703-925-9455, ext. 0.



Salvation Army Golden Diners Wins Honors

The Salvation Army Golden Diners Senior Nutrition Program was awarded a \$2,500 "Grand Prize" by the National Meals on Wheels program as a winner in the "March for Meals Challenge" honoring the 30th Anniversary of senior nutrition programs.

The Golden Diners celebrated at 16 of its 21 sites in Kane, Kendall, and McHenry Counties (three sites are Home Delivered Meals only, and two are restaurant sites) during the week of March 11-15, with a different theme for each day. Local businesses donated decorations and door prizes, and local media promoted the events.

In addition to increasing awareness of the meal program, 35 seniors new to the program registered that week, and the number of meals served that week at congregate sites increased from 1,667 (the average each week), to 2,154 — an increase of almost 500 meals. The program also gained 11 new volunteers that week.

Major Mark Litherland, Director of The Salvation Army Golden Diners Senior Nutrition Program, was presented with the March for Meals Challenge award at a ceremony in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, in September.

Consumer Complaints Against Insurance Companies Increase

Illinois consumers filed more complaints about their insurance companies, but fewer against their HMOs, according to the 2001 consumer complaint statistics released in July by Director of the Illinois Department of Insurance Nat Shapo.

The Illinois Department of Insurance investigated 12,269 written complaints against insurance companies in 2001 compared to 10,781 in 2000, an overall increase of 14 percent. Total complaints against health maintenance organizations dropped by 19 percent from 1,761 in 2000 to 1,430 in 2001.

Despite the decrease in HMO complaints, health insurance lines continued to receive the largest portion (42 percent) of all consumer grievances, in part because the Department's Office of Consumer Health Insurance has initiated community outreach programs that have increased public visibility about Department services and because more health care providers are filing complaints.

Property and casualty lines accounted for nearly one-third (32 percent) of total complaints, with homeowners insurance complaints escalating by an unprecedented 59 percent. Other significant complaint increases included: auto insurance, +11 percent; individual accident and health insurance, +21 percent; and group accident and health, +15 percent.

Illinois residents can contact the Department of Insurance through the following toll-free numbers: the Consumer Assistance Hotline at 866-445-5364 or the Office of Consumer Health Insurance at 877-527-9431. ✽

Assisted Living Initiative Offers Assistance

For the past year and a half, the Illinois Affordable Assisted Living Initiative has been providing grants, predevelopment loans and technical assistance to over 50 nonprofits throughout the state. These community-based organizations have identified a need for affordable assisted living and are working to bring such facilities into their communities.

The Initiative's target market is specialized: those seniors who have become frail enough to need some assistance with personal care and other activities, but who don't need continuous skilled nursing care. In order to be eligible to live in these facilities, seniors must be over 65 and need a certain level of supportive services. Individuals may privately pay for room, board, and all these services (and nearly half of them do); but if they spend down their assets and have modest

incomes, Medicaid will pay. The income ceiling for eligibility is surprisingly high, and is roughly coterminous with the income limits imposed by traditional affordable housing mechanisms such as the Low Income Home Tax Credits (LIHTC) and Housing Opportunities and Maintenance for the Elderly (HOME).

Affordable Assisted Living, known as Supportive Living Facility, works by providing Medicaid reimbursement for the personal care and supportive services delivered to low-income seniors who live in senior housing that has been certified by the Department of Public Aid through the Supportive Living Program. Another way to characterize these Supportive Living Facilities is that they are assisted living facilities in which Medicaid can be used. They provide a safety net in two critical areas

preventing 1) early institutionalization into nursing homes and 2) displacement out of a community because a frail senior or their family cannot pay privately.

Fifteen facilities certified as Supportive Living Facilities, totaling 927 units, are complete and operating with an additional 36 sites, totaling 3,309 units, approved and in the development pipeline. These sites are scattered all over the State of Illinois, in urban, suburban, and rural locations.

To learn more about the Illinois Affordable Assisted Living Initiative and funding opportunities for creating enriched senior housing with services, contact Sara Lindholm or Matthew Haas by phone (312-697-6473 or -6117) or e-mail (lindholm@nefinc.org or mhaas@nefinc.org). The web site is www.liscnet.org/whatwedo/newinitiatives/CFF/chicago.shtml. ✻

See also the article, Chicago Community Trust Honors Organization Serving Seniors, on page 9.

ASSERT Pilot Project Started; Seminars Scheduled

The Buehler Center on Aging, affiliated with the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University, has initiated a pilot project called ASSERT (Aging Services Support for Evaluation and Research Training). The project is funded by a grant from the Retirement Research Foundation.

The goal of the project is to "strengthen the ability of agencies to identify and meet needs for information by building capacity for conducting, understanding, and

using research to better assess services, improve programs, and become learning organizations."

ASSERT will host four public seminars on a variety of research and evaluation topics relevant to social services. These seminars are open to all organizations and the Aging Network. The first will be held from 9-11 a.m. November 5, 2002, at the Chicago campus of Northwestern University. Dr. Jean Schensul from the Institute for Community Research in Hartford,

Connecticut, will speak on "Involving Stakeholders and Building Partnerships in Research." Call 312-503-3720 to reserve a seat. There is no cost, but seating is limited.

ASSERT is also working with a limited number of "Agency Partners" who have agreed to participate in a training program called "Improving Outcomes Through Organizational Learning." Over the next 15 months, leadership staff from Agency Partners will attend workshops complemented by research consultations.

To learn more about ASSERT, visit www.assertproject.org. ✻

November is National Family Caregivers Month

Caregivers need care, too — that's the message during November, which is National Family Caregivers Month. Organizers and advocates say it is time to honor, thank, support, assist, educate and celebrate the millions of family caregivers in our nation.

"It is generally accepted that a quarter of America's adult population is caring for a chronically ill, disabled or aged relative or friend," said Margo E. Schreiber, Director of the Illinois Department on Aging. "We need to reach out to these caregivers to thank them, acknowledge their demands, and

offer them support."

Schreiber said the Illinois Department on Aging and the Aging Network continue to work diligently to educate the public about more than 100 "Caregiver Resource Centers" in the state. These centers are in familiar locations like senior centers and offer family caregivers with information and assistance, and direct them to additional services.

The Illinois Department on Aging and the state's 13 Area Agencies on Aging established the Caregiver Resource Centers as part of the National Family

Caregiver Support Program, created when the federal Older Americans Act was reauthorized in 2000.

"The Caregiver Resource Centers are now well established," Schreiber said, "but our efforts to make people aware of them are ongoing. National Family Caregiver Month provides us with an opportunity to reinforce our message that if a family caregiver is stressed, confused, or facing a problem or question, we are prepared, equipped and more than ready to help." ❖

Shirley Loflin, editor of *Family Caregiving Community Communications* for the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Human Development at Georgia Southwestern State University, offers the following tips for caregivers:

- Set aside private space and retreat there for renewal
- Do not burn yourself out so much that resentment takes over
- Find a friend or network to share thoughts with. Venting releases tension.
- Get plenty of sleep. Nap when the care receiver naps.
- Eat a balanced diet.
- Do not do for them what they can do for themselves.
- Do not be afraid to ask for help and accept it.
- Being a martyr hurts no one but you.
- Always ask the care receiver's opinion or advice on things.
- Do not deny what has happened. Accept it and move to improve.
- No arguing...this accomplishes nothing.
- Do not give up your right to a well-rounded life of your own.
- Try to incorporate some sort of morale booster into your life...lunch with a friend or a small indulgence for yourself.
- Know you are not alone: see a support group and learn as much as you can about the disease or disability your loved one has.
- Take some risks, otherwise you'll never know or experience all life offers.
- Learn that rehabilitation is not the same as recovery; i.e., don't expect miracles.
- Keep a positive attitude and smile.
- Do not feel guilty while taking care of yourself.
- Do not feel sorry for yourself and don't give up.

Applications Available for Senior Pageant

Applications are now available for the Ms. Illinois American Classic Woman Pageant to be held March 23-24, 2002 in Oakbrook Terrace. Call the Illinois Department on Aging's Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966 (Voice & TTY) for an application or more information.



Operation ABLE Director Resigns

Citing the need for more time with family, Shirley R. Brussell, Executive Director of Operation ABLE has announced she will resign her post effective January 1, 2003. At that time, Brussell will have com-

pleted over 25 years as ABLE's Founder and Executive Director.

"Shirley Brussell has taken ABLE from a small agency with a budget of under \$50,000 to a thriving agency with a \$6 million

budget and a record of placing more than 200,000 job seekers with employment," said Illinois Department on Aging Director Margo E. Schreiber. "We wish Shirley all the best in the next phase of her life, and thank her for building ABLE into what it is today." ❖

Illinois Dept. on Aging Receives Media Award

The Illinois Department on Aging is a recipient of the 2002 National Mature Media Awards, which showcase the best advertising, marketing and educational materials developed for seniors in the nation.

The Department won the 2002 Merit Award in the Government Division for a brochure titled, "Do you know someone who is caring for an older adult?" The brochure was developed in response to new efforts to help family caregivers through the National Family Caregiver Support Program.

Awards were chosen from more than 1,100 entries judged by a panel of individuals representing years of expertise in serving the mature market. They reviewed materials for overall excellence of design, content, creativity and relevance to seniors. ❖

New brochures and posters:

- **Seniors and Gambling**
(video also available)
- **Pharmaceutical Assistance in Illinois** (updated)

Contact the Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966 (Voice & TTY) or ilsenior@aging.state.il.us to obtain copies.

Intergenerational Programs

Programs of National Significance Grants Awarded

On August 2, 2002, Tim Krieger, State Program Director for the Corporation for National Service announced five Illinois recipients for the 2002 Programs for National Significance (PNS) grants. They are:

Foster Grandparent Program: Senior Services Plus, Inc., Alton

Senior Companion Program: Southwestern Illinois College, Belleville

Retired Senior Volunteer Program: Carl Sandburg College, Carthage

Retired Senior Volunteer Program: John Wood Community College, Quincy

Retired Senior Volunteer Program: Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging, Quad Cities

Illinois was also one of three national recipients for additional funding to expand the Foster Grandparent Program through a **National Grant Competition with Homeland Security**. The new Foster Grandparent Program will serve Jefferson and Wayne counties and operate through the Baptist Children's Home in Centralia. This award brings the total number of Foster Grandparent Programs to eleven in Illinois.

Foster Grandparent Programs provide opportunities for senior volunteers to assist youth with special needs. Many volunteers offer support to children that have been abused and neglected, mentor troubled teenagers and young mothers, care for premature infants and children with disabilities, help with homework and assist children with special needs in schools and hospitals. In FY 02, 750 volunteers provided over 650,000 hours of service through ten projects in the state.

Currently, 23 RSVP projects in the state provide a variety of opportunities for seniors. In FY 02, over 12,000 senior volunteers provided more than 2.4 million hours of volunteer service to agencies, businesses and organizations in over 200 sites in Illinois. Volunteers contributed hundreds of hours of service to schools, libraries, Head Start, adult literacy and after school programs. RSVP members include carpenters, data entry workers, counselors, nutrition aides, friendly visitors, tax aides and newsletter editors. ❖

Older Workers, Employers Honored

Older workers and their employees were honored by the Illinois Department on Aging September 26, 2002, in Springfield as part of National Employ the Older Worker Week.

The following were named Employees of the Year —

Gail Beard, 64, of Perry was nominated by John Wood Community College's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). Beard started with RSVP as a volunteer helping with the "Illinois READS" program and now serves as Special Projects Coordinator.

Donald E. Carlson, 66, of Quincy works at Niewmann's Foods/County Market in Quincy where he shops with disabled customers, cleans restrooms, stocks shelves, receives orders from trucks, and sets a wonderful example for the younger workers.

Victoria Doran, 67, of Chicago was nominated by the

Illinois Department of Human Services, Bureau of Community Health and Nursing. Doran is an administrative assistant in the Bureau.

Mary Eileen Scully, 75, of Chicago was nominated by the Blind Service Association in Chicago, where she is manager of the Senior Program. For more than 50 years, Scully was an educator and she brings that experience to her work.

Louise Starkweather, 89, of Herrin was nominated by the Egyptian Area Agency on Aging. She had a distinguished career as a seamstress in the garment industry extending 68 years. She now works at Crab Orchard Lake campgrounds.



Illinois Department on Aging Director Margo E. Schreiber (left) congratulates Louise Starkweather of Herrin, who at age 89 is the oldest winner honored during the 2002 National Employ the Older Worker Week.

Title V Employees of the Year —

Johnnie Dorris, 69, of Champaign was nominated by the Urban League of Champaign County. As a child, Dorris worked in cotton fields. This year, she completed her high school education. At the Champaign Public School System's Family Information Center, Dorris has many tasks.

Victoria "Ann" Jones, 64, of Herrin was nominated by Experience Works, Inc., where she has worked as a Field Operations Assistant for eight years and facilitates a job program for seniors in southern Illinois. She has been the top Field Assistant in the state.

Maxine McMath, 65, of Urbana was nominated by the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), where she began volunteering in 2001 before becoming an Administrative Assistant. McMath is an excellent recruiter.

Employers of the Year —

Super Wal-Mart of Quincy and its **Manager Don Lipsey** were honored for actively recruiting and retaining older workers. The store has 100 employees who are 50 years of age and older, out of a total of 385 employees. Wal-Mart was nominated by the West Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging.

Southwestern Illinois Visiting Nurse Association of Swansea and its **Director Mike Bader** were honored for its long standing tradition of utilizing the state's Title V program and accommodating a variety of different work schedules to satisfy the older workers. SIVNA was nominated by the Southwestern Illinois Area Agency on Aging. ✧

Legislative Update

Governor Signs Telephone Solicitation Bill

Governor George H. Ryan in August signed into law Senate Bill 1830 which will allow telephone customers to indicate if they want to receive telephone calls from businesses or other organizations trying to sell products or solicit donations.

"I am going to sign Senate Bill 1830 into law, but I do so with some disappointment and with the hope that the General Assembly will build on this small, first step, by passing future improvements that reduce, and hopefully eliminate, the many exemptions that will be in the new law," the Governor said.

Senate Bill 1830 exempts entities subject to the Federal Communications Commission and providers of information services as defined under sections of the U.S. Code.

Federal Grants Help Veterans

Governor George H. Ryan in July announced that the State of Illinois' Department of Veterans Affairs is receiving nearly \$7.3 million from the federal government for efforts to improve the lives of veterans. The federal grants are a reimbursement from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for work that has already been completed.

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the state has been awarded nine grants totaling \$7,288,438. The grants are for federal assistance in the cost of renovation, construction and system upgrades at the Illinois Veterans Homes in LaSalle, Manteno and Quincy.

Medicare Protects Coverage for Homebound Beneficiaries

The Medicare program in July provided reassurance to chronically disabled homebound Medicare beneficiaries that they can continue to receive home health care even if they leave their homes for special non-medical purposes.

In new instructions, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services directed home health agencies and the contractors that pay home health claims to be more flexible in determining if a severely disabled individual is qualified as homebound.

The instructions make clear that individuals who otherwise qualify as homebound should not lose home health services because they leave their homes infrequently for short periods of time for such occasions as family reunions, graduations, or funerals. More information is available at www.hhs.gov/news.

For further information on bills of interest to the Aging Network, see the "Legislation" on the Illinois Department on Aging Website at www.state.il.us/aging/. ❖

Chicago Community Trust Honors Organization Serving Seniors

The Chicago Community Trust has selected Housing Opportunities and Maintenance for the Elderly (H.O.M.E.) as the recipient of the 2002 James Brown IV Award of Excellence for Outstanding Community Service. The \$50,000 award is given each year to one Chicago-area organization in recognition of its service to the community. The award was presented October 12, 2002, at the H.O.M.E. 20th anniversary gala at the Chicago Cultural Center.

Founded in 1982 by Michael and Lilo Salmon, H.O.M.E. was established to provide practical housing services to low-income seniors in Chicago. Currently, H.O.M.E. offers a wealth of programs including the only free citywide moving services for the elderly, a furniture donation program, repair services for elderly homeowners in the city, and operates two intergenerational housing facilities.

The Chicago Community Trust established the James Brown IV Award to recognize the outstanding and often unheralded accomplishments and impact of the not-for-profit sector throughout metropolitan Chicago. It is named for the Trust's second executive director, who served from 1949 to 1973.

For more information about H.O.M.E. call 773-921-3200. ❖

Outstanding Long Term Care Ombudsmen and Elder Abuse Supervisor of the Year Named

The Illinois Department on Aging in July honored individuals for exemplary work in nursing home resident advocacy and programs that address elder abuse. The awards were presented July 25, 2002, at the Holiday Inn City Centre in Chicago as part of the Department's 16th Annual Elder Rights Conference.

The following winners were chosen based on qualities of team work, professionalism, client advocacy, work ethic, accomplishments and positive attitude:

Outstanding Long Term Care Ombudsman

— **Robyn O'Neill** of the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago. O'Neill has worked as a regional Long Term Care Ombudsman in the Foundation's Evanston office for 16 years. She supervises a large program and provides consultation to other regional programs about challenging case situations and legal issues. She is a resource to new ombudsmen uncertain how to approach complex situation. O'Neill developed one of the first regional programs in the state and assumed a leadership role in the development of the Illinois Association of Long Term Care Ombudsmen.

The following Long Term Care Ombudsmen received Certificates in recognition of their dedication: **Laura Alexander** of Alternatives for the Older Adult in Moline; **Mary Ann Smith** of the Effingham City/County Committee on Aging in Mt. Vernon; and **Adele Vaira** of the Senior Services Center of Will County in Joliet.



Robyn O'Neill (middle) was named "Outstanding Long Term Care Ombudsman." O'Neill is pictured here with Director Schreiber and Suburban Area Agency on Aging Executive Director Jonathan Lavin.



Debra Foust, (left) was named "Outstanding Elder Abuse Program Supervisor" during the 16th Annual Elder Rights Conference. She is pictured here with Department on Aging Director Margo E. Schreiber.

Outstanding Elder Abuse Program Supervisor — Debra Foust

of the Stephenson County Senior Center in Freeport. Foust has worked as an Elder Abuse Case-worker, Case Manager and Supervisor for 17 years. According to her nomination, "Clients come first — always. Meeting their need, providing workable solutions is a top priority...she is willing to go the extra mile, both physically and emotionally, making weekend calls as needed and advocating vigorously for the client...She is an excellent role model, encouraging and supporting the staff she supervises."

The following Elder Abuse Supervisors received Certificates in recognition of their dedication and work for ten or more years:

Kim Crutcher of PATH in Bloomington;
Ranelle Eigsti of the Catholic Diocese of Joliet in Kankakee;
Cynthia Gunderson of Catholic Charities Northwest Senior Services in Arlington Heights;
Marshall Hayes of Elderly Care Services of DeKalb County in DeKalb;
Mary Holmes of Prairie Council on Aging in Carrollton;
Riki Kauffman of PLOWS Council on Aging in Palos Heights;
Rebecca Liefert of PLOWS Council on Aging in Palos Heights;
Nancy Manley of CHELP in Decatur;
Judy McElhoe of West Central Illinois CCU in Quincy;
Louise Starmann of Southwest Suburban Center on Aging in LaGrange; and
Joan Wileman of Stickney Township Office of Aging in Burbank.

Trainings & Special Events

November is **National Family Caregivers Month**.

Nov 8: Skokie; **Chicago Metro. Intergenerational Conf.;** IL Dept. on Aging, Chicago Metro AEYC Intergen. Comm. Elders Share the Arts, Lifelink Corp., Oakton Com. College, and U of I Extension; Maureen Statland, 847-818-2901.

Nov 8 & 22: Springfield; **10th An. Multi-Disiplinary Cert. Prog. in Geriatrics for Non-Physicians;** UIUC, College of Med., Dept. of Fam. Med.; Dr. Wm. Gingold, 217-265-0876.

Dec 11-13: Chicago; **Governor's Conference on Aging and Human Services;** IL Dept. on Aging and IL Dept. of

Human Services; Dawn Shellhammer, 217-785-3387.

Mar 6-7, 2003: Champaign; **An. Ill. Sr. Service Corps Seminar;** IL Dept. on Aging; John Lazell, 217-785-4225.

April: Chicago; **Nat. Ombudsman Training Conf.;** IL Dept. on Aging; Neyna Johnson, 217-785-3140.

May 1-2: Springfield; **3rd An. Mental Health & Aging Conf.;** IL Dept. on Aging and IL Dept. of Human Services; John Lazell, 217-785-4225.

May 13-16: Chicago; **American Society on Aging & Nat. Council on the Aging Conf.;** Am. Soc. on

Aging and The Nat. Council on the Aging; 800-537-9728.

May 19-20: Springfield; **8th An. Conf. on Alzheimer Disease & Related Disorders;** IL Dept. on Aging, SIU School of Med. Ctr. for Alzheimer Disease & Related Disorders, Alzheimer's Assoc. Ill. Chptr.; Gidget Freeberg, 217-557-8312.

May 23: Oakbrook; **Workers in Aging Conf.;** Northeastern and Suburban Area Agencies on Aging; Debra Janiszewski, 708-383-0258 ext. 316.

Jul 12-16: Baltimore, MD; **National Area Agencies on Aging Conf.;** National Area Agencies on Aging.

Aug 27-28: Springfield; **Illinois Coalition on Aging Annual Retreat.**

2002 TRIAD Senior Citizen Volunteers Named

TRIAD, an organization comprised of law enforcement, government entities and advocacy groups committed to the prevention of crimes against the elderly, honored the following senior volunteers at a ceremony on Sept. 19, 2002, in Bradley.

They are:

Nick Mangiaracina, nominated by Addison Police Department; **Bill Robertson**, nominated by Belvidere Police Department; **Jean Dunn**, nominated by Carpentersville Police Department; **Verda Schuster**, nominated by Cook County Sheriff's Department; **George Buckely**, nominated by Des Plaines Police Department; **Kenneth J. McNatt**, nominated by DuPage County Sheriff's Office; **Loretta Nichols** and **Lorraine Santee**, nominated by Elgin Police Department; **Frank Ippolito**, nominated by Evanston Police Department;

Jack H. Kotter, nominated by Kankakee County Sheriff's Police; **Manley Bowman**, nominated by Knox County Sheriff's Department; **Richard J. White, Sr.**, nominated by Lake County Sheriff's Office; **Marge Bittles**, nominated by Lemont Police Department; **Terry McDermott**, nominated by Manteno Police Department; **Suzanne Jungmann**, nominated by Rolling Meadows Police Department; **Betty Hlad**, nominated by Schaumburg Police Department; **Eleanor and Valentino Lencioni**, nominated by Westmont Police Depart-

ment; and **Martha and Tom Eckert**, nominated by Woodford County Sheriff's Department.

The following were nominated by various districts within the Chicago Police Department: **Lula M. Berry**, **Nadyne Griffin**, **Shirley T. Boykin**, **Monica Polnik**, **Hattie Singleton**, **Madeline Tovar**, **Chris Hibbler**, **Patricia Jeszka**, **William Bier**, **William Dale**, **Betty Nicosia**, **Sandy Campbell**, **Lillian W. Cain**, **Eleanor Steele**, and **Mary J. Freely**.

Mary Yoksoulion was named **Volunteer of the Year**. She was nominated by the Country Club Hills Police Department. And, **Lucy Gutierrez** was given the **Time of Service Award**. She was nominated by the Chicago Police Department 12th District. ✽

Director Schreiber Receives Awards

Director of the Illinois Department on Aging Margo E. Schreiber was honored October 14, 2002, in Deerfield by the Council for Jewish Elderly for outstanding work on behalf of seniors and their families throughout the state.

Schreiber also received the Gold L.E.A.F. 2002 Award which was presented by Metropolitan Family Services at its annual meeting October 24, 2002, in DuPage County.

During both award presentations, Schreiber was lauded as a tireless advocate and leader who has raised the visibility of the Illinois Department on Aging and implemented programs to help more older people live independently and with dignity in their own homes and communities.

Schreiber was appointed as Director of the Department in 1999. Some of her many accomplishments include publicizing the expansion of the Circuit Breaker/Pharmaceutical

Assistance Program and the new Illinois SeniorCare Program to help seniors pay for prescription medications; implementing a Family Caregiver Support Program to reach out to unpaid, family caregivers struggling to take care of an elderly parent or spouse; chairing the Governor's Elder Abuse Task Force and producing recommendations to help protect vulnerable seniors, especially from financial exploitation; and promoting the visibility of the Department to help seniors access needed services.

Schreiber was also recognized for strengthening existing programs, including in-home and adult day services, building volunteerism, educating more seniors about choices for care, promoting cultural change in

long term care, and building partnerships with other agencies and advocates to bring about positive improvements for seniors.

She has spent over 25 years working in the fields of aging and human services. As Administrator of DuPage County Human Services, she worked to provide housing, mental health services, transportation, energy services and senior services to those in need. She served as founder and Chairman of the DuPage Federation and served on the Illinois Council on

Aging for nearly 20 years.

Schreiber is a 1983 graduate of National-Louis University which honored her in 2002 as a Distinguished Alumni. She is also the recipient of the Josephine Oblinger Award in recognition of her advocacy on behalf of seniors. ✿



The Illinois Department on Aging does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in compliance with appropriate State and Federal statutes. If you feel you have been discriminated against, call the Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966 (Voice and TTY).

Printed by Authority of the State of Illinois 7.5M October 2003 Printed on Recycled Paper

Governor
George H. Ryan

Director
Margo E. Schreiber

Deputy Director
Lynda Ganzer

Deputy Director
Nancy Nelson

Communications
Director
Jan Costello

Communications
Assistant Director
Maureen Squires

Webmaster and
Publications
Supervisor
Daisy Juarez

Published by the Illinois Department on Aging, **Network News** is a quarterly publication distributed free to the agencies and organizations in the Aging Network, older adults, members of the Legislature, the media and other interested people. Please direct all communication to Jan Costello. Copyright 2002, Illinois Department on Aging.

www.state.il.us/aging



NetworkNEWS

Illinois Department on Aging

421 East Capitol Avenue, #100, Springfield, IL 62701-1789